

NEW HAMPSHIRE LAW LIBRARY

May 22, 1956

SEP 22 1998

CONCORD, N.H.

Colonel Ralph W. Caswell, Superintendent  
State Police  
State House Annex  
Concord, New Hampshire

Dear Sir:

You have inquired concerning the applicability of the New Hampshire statutes relating to pistols or revolvers capable only of firing blank ammunition and have inquired whether or not RSA 159 is applicable thereto.

It is my opinion that statute is applicable thereto and further advice as follows.

RSA 571:20 provides as follows:

"Toy Pistols, etc. If any person shall have in his possession a toy pistol or other toy firearms, for the explosion of blank cartridges, with intent to sell the same, or shall sell or offer to sell or to give away the same, or shall have in his possession an air rifle, with like intent, he shall be fined not more than fifty dollars, and shall be liable for all damages resulting from a violation of the provisions of this section, to be recovered in an action on the case."

RSA 159:1 defines pistol or revolver as:

"any firearm with barrel less than twelve inches in length."

It will be noted that in RSA 160:1 the permitted pistols and guns are limited to those in which paper

COPY

OFFICE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Colonel Ralph W. Caswell -- 2.

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caps containing twenty hundredths grains or less of explosive compounds are used

\*providing they are so constructed that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in place for the explosion, . . . .\*

Very truly yours,

George F. Nelson  
Assistant Attorney General

GFN:W

Encl. - 1 copy of  
letter.

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